

Theatre Div. -
Gov. School of the Arts

Being Joseph Byrd is something I take great pride in. With hard work and patience I have been able to accomplish many great things in my life. Good grades, community service, and being involved in school activities are only a few of the things that make up the person who I have become today but it all started my freshman year while attending Franklin High School.

I thoroughly enjoyed my freshman year. It gave me a chance to make new friends, and get the hang of how high school works. I landed the role of Romeo in our school play of Romeo and Juliet and the Harold in Cinderella. I also was in the school's most elite singing group called the Madrigals. Although I was a bit overwhelmed at the change from Junior High to High School I had to remain focused on the most important thing; my grades. Luckily I was able to do so and made the honor roll all four marking periods.

That summer I had the opportunity of assisting Middle Earth, a teen outreach program, sell food at their annual 4-H Fair fundraiser. There I worked for over 5 hours counting money and handling food. I found it quite fun. Another thing I did that summer was raise 5 different species of lepidoptera, better known as butterflies and moths. I perfected the skill of mating wild males with captive females and then raising those eggs and their offspring for 2 generations.

Being a wise fool, sophomore, was something I cannot really recall. All I can remember is a lot of studying, a lot of singing, a lot of acting and my joining of a program called Act-so. It is a program that allows African American youth to compete in a vast array of categories. I competed in oratory, vocal classical, and dramatics that year. I was so thrilled when I won the gold medal for both oratory and vocal classical. I then went on to win the National Silver Medal for oratory in New Orleans. My sophomore year was a continuation of my growth from freshmen year. I participated in many of the same things and I was ready for my junior year.

Junior year was great. I worked hard and, for the 3rd time in High School, made the honor roll for all four marking periods. I was actually able to raise my GPA! I still participated in Madrigals, Act-so, school plays, and I also served as a coach for the New Jersey Orators. That year I was accepted into Nation Honors Society. I was also chosen for a special program in the state of New Jersey called Teen P.E.P. As a Teen P.E.P

educator I will teach my peers about sexual and sexually related issues.

Now I am here in my senior year. My hope is to continue to do well with grades, and all of my in and out of school activities. I have begun to think more and more about my future. I of course want to go to college for both my bachelor's and master's degree. I then hope to pursue a career on Broadway. After exploring the theatrical world for a few years I would love to get into politics. I believe that it would be a way for me to not only give back the community but to also change the lives of people for the good.